(d) The State Governments have been adequately empowered under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules made thereunder to check and regulate the quality of food products.

Procurement of foodgrains

1675. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has managed to procure 21 million tonnes of wheat during the current year as was made during the last year;

(b) if so, whether inspite of bumper crops the FCI has been able to procure only the same quantity as was done last year;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have decided to change the procurement policy to meet the target; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir. A quantity of 19.02 million tonnes of wheat has been procured by the FCI/State procuring agencies for Central Pool in the current marketing season 2002-2003 as against 20.6 million tonnes of wheat procured in the last marketing season 2001-02.

(b) Final estimates of production of the last Rabi crop have not so far been firmed up. However, the FCI/State procuring agencies have procured over 90% of the total market arrivals of wheat.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) & (b) above.

(d) The current Rabi procurement season is over. There is at present no proposal to change the present procurement policy.

(e) Does not arise.